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NEWS ITEMS

The Board of Governors of Harvard University have appointed Mr. E. H. Wilson as assistant director of the Arnold Arboretum. Mr. Wilson returned recently from an extended exploring trip in the Far East.

My mycological friends have heard much of the fungi that have appeared from time to time on my lawn during the past ten years or more. Now it is *Selaginella apus* that takes first place, having occupied during recent years an area of over 500 square yards, forming a soft, delicate, green carpet beneath the grass. It began to spread from the shaded side of the lawn, but did not stop spreading when it reached the sunny open spaces. By the middle of June, the large spore-cases are quite evident under a hand lens at the base of the short, crowded spikes.

—W. A. MURRILL.

A testimonial dinner to Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the New York Botanical Garden, given by the managers at the Metropolitan Club on the evening of May 7, was attended by men of science from all parts of the country. Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington acted as toastmaster, and speeches reviewing the history of the organization of the garden by Dr. Britton twenty-three years ago, and of his widely inclusive and important researches were made by Dr. W. Gilman Thompson, president of the board; Professor R. A. Harper, chairman of the scientific directors; Professor H. F. Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History; Provost William H. Carpenter, of Columbia University; Dr. Arthur Hollick, director of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Geo. T. Moore, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, at St. Louis. At the conclusion of the ceremonies Mr. Robert DeForest presented Dr. Britton with a loving cup appropriately inscribed on behalf of the board of managers. Congratulatory letters and telegrams from distinguished scientific men were read.